



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Scott Mittelstadt** Chief Deputy

September, 2019 - Law of the Month

It is the start of another school year and activity around schools will increase along with crosswalks being used. With school buses on the roads of Dodge County, we are asking motorists to keep an eye out for school buses and pedestrians.

There are two laws that are very important this time of year. The first law pertains to school bus laws. It is important to watch for school buses when they are picking up kids for school. They are equipped with a red light to warn drivers that they are picking up or dropping off kids.

The other law pertains to pedestrians. It is important for drivers to be on alert when driving by a school, or just in general, to look for pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk. It is especially important to obey crossing guards in school areas. They need to have control of the whole surrounding area due to the safety of children crossing the roads to get to school. Be respectful of crossing guards as they are just trying to protect the children crossing the roads to get them to school safely. Drivers can become distracted when people are crossing in the crosswalk or not paying attention to their surroundings. It is very important for drivers to be attentive.

Pay attention to school buses, pedestrians, crossing guards and your surroundings.

Let's have a fun and safe school year!

School Bus Law: 346.48

Wisconsin law 346.48 drivers are required to stop at least 20 feet from the bus that is stopped and using their red flashing warning lights. This law also applies to vehicles coming from either direction. The only exception to this law is if the roadway is separated from a median or other physical barrier. If a bus is passed illegally, the school bus driver is authorized to report the violation to law enforcement. A citation for failing to stop for a school bus is \$326 and 4 demerit points

Pedestrian Law: 346.465

Wisconsin law 346.465, owner's liability for vehicle illegally crossing controlled school crossing. This means the crossing is controlled by a crossing guard. Just like a bus driver, the crossing guard has the authority to report the violation to law enforcement. The state law also states pedestrians who are crossing marked or unmarked crosswalks at an intersection with no traffic lights or control signals, are to yield for pedestrians to cross. Drivers who fail to yield right way to pedestrians that are legally crossing the roadway can receive a citation ranging from \$175 to \$326.